

**Jury Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

December 4, 2009
Minutes

1. Attendance. The following Committee members participated via conference call: Amy Barbar, Christopher Burnham, Thomas Cannon, Brent Dickson, Maria Granger, Robert Kirsch, James Osborn, and Fran Gull, Chair.
2. Staff present. Michelle C. Goodman provided the Committee with staff assistance.
3. Approval of minutes. The Committee approved the October 2009 minutes.
4. Proposed rule amendments. The Committee reviewed the revised proposed amendments to Jury Rule 4, 20, and 26. After discussing the proposals, the Committee requested that the heading Commentary be placed before those portions of the proposals. The Committee discussed at length the timing of the rule amendment process and how courts may be able to implement some of these items sooner than others. The Committee unanimously agreed to request that proposal on Jury Rule 20 and 26 be adopted immediately and effective on July 1, 2010 and permit the proposal on Jury Rule 4 to proceed through the regular rule making cycle. The Committee also requested that a memo be sent to trial judges recommending they start implementing the proposals for Jury Rule 20 and 26 after receiving approval from the Board of Directors on this matter.
5. Proposed legislation. Judge Gull and staff reported back to the Committee on their meeting with Ron Miller, Director of UI Benefits & Appeals, and Mary Johnson, Deputy Commissioner over Unemployment, both with WorkForce Development regarding the issue of unemployment benefits and jury service. Based on the meeting, WorkForce Development was receptive to the idea of amending the unemployment statutes to address jury service issues. The Committee reviewed a draft proposal for legislation to specifically list jury service as an exception in IC 22-4-14-3 regarding availability for work. The Committee was also informed that WorkForce Development would be providing language to include that provides that pay received from jury service would not result in a reduction of benefits. The Committee unanimously approved the proposed language for legislation and requested that we seek permission to pursue this proposal as soon as possible. The Committee also reviewed a draft letter to the trial judges informing them of this issue and the Committee's recommended course of action. The Committee unanimously approved the letter for distribution.
6. Scheduled Meetings for 2010. The Committee rescheduled the first meeting of 2010 to January 29th at noon due to a conflict with the prior date.

Friday, January 29th at noon (begin reviewing benchbook sections; plan to finish late afternoon) (*Please note new date)

Friday, May 21st at noon

Friday, July 16th at noon

Friday, October 8th at noon

Note: All meetings will be held at the Indiana Judicial Center and meeting times are listed as Indianapolis time.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle C. Goodman
Staff Attorney